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An Old English Grammar, by EDUARD SIEVERS, Ph. D., Professor of Germanic Philology in the University of Tübingen. Translated and Edited by ALBERT S. COOK, Ph. D., Professor of the English Language and Literature in the University of California. Boston, Ginn, Heath & Co. 1885. Pp. xvi, 235.

The well recognized merit of Sievers' unrivalled *Angelsächsische Grammatik* created an imperative demand for an English version. That this demand would be met was inevitable; how it would be met was doubtful. Delay and apprehension are now happily removed by the appearance of the volume before us.

The task of putting this work into English form must not be underrated. For those less familiar with the original, who may be inclined to look upon the performance as a mere translation, it is well to state that such is not the case, and that it is due to both author and translator that their respective responsibility in this volume be rightly understood. Prof. Cook has correctly named himself "translator and editor," and has defined his position clearly and briefly in a preface. We are told that there has been some "unimportant redistribution of matter," and that the original has been modified by "excisions, additions, changes in terminology, and changes in accent." From this it is clear that something essentially different from a mere translation has been aimed at. What this aim has been, and to what extent a desirable result has been attained, may be here briefly inquired into.

The characteristic feature of Sievers' work is its independence of preceding Anglo-Saxon grammars, and its dependence upon the most authentic documents of the earliest periods of the language, discriminated as to age and dialect. The mass of its material is taken at first hand, and ordered according to the latest doctrine of grammatical science. It follows that such an attempt at building up a grammar *de novo* must be a gradual process. A resifting of the material already at hand, and the publication of additional sources, will constantly lead to modifications and extensions of the first sketch. Such has been the history of Sievers' grammar. Since its publication, three years ago, important contributions to the subject have been gathered from sources old and new. Chief among these contributors stands Sievers himself, who published a large body of supplementary matter (*Beiträge IX, 197-300*) arranged according to the sections of the grammar, so that it has since been necessary, in using the original work, to have constant regard to this supplement. The necessary incorporation of this supplement, together with the *Nachträge und Berichtigungen* appended to the original, imposed a special responsibility upon the translator. The American public is to be congratulated that the work has fallen into efficient hands. Former instruction by the author himself, and complete sympathy with the method by which this grammar has been constructed, combined with the literary aptitude required in the labor of translation, constitute the peculiar fitness of Prof. Cook for the task he has so well performed.

Upon closer scrutiny it will be seen that Prof. Cook's leading purpose has been to supply to our institutions of learning a serviceable text-book; and to his doctrine of what rightly constitutes such a manual must be referred the

liberties he has taken with his original. To this end the requirements of a perspicuous and idiomatic style, and of a clear and consistent terminology, have been well met. Language and idiom, which translators often separate, are Englished intact, so that the book may be read with the comfort of security against barbarisms; while its practical and general use is favored by a discriminating and conservative nomenclature in the somewhat new treatment of facts.

It is, however, especially in externals that pertain to the printer's art that the design of the practical teacher is apparent. In the distribution of the matter and the variety of the type, such an improvement of the original is effected as might in itself almost justify the new version. Aside from the editorial skill here displayed, it is fitting to observe that this volume brings the welcome evidence of possessing in America the means for printing Anglo-Saxon textbooks in excellent form.

To those interested in the more exact details of this department of study, the editor's treatment of the contributory matter, embraced chiefly in the *Miscellen*, may occasion a slight degree of disappointment. The words of the editor upon this point, "So much of this store as promised to render the Grammar more serviceable has been incorporated into its pages," are explicit enough in the light of the practical design of the new version, but it may be contended that a wider application than is here implied of the term "serviceable," does not lie so remote from the needs of students of Anglo-Saxon in this country.

At a time when a new interest is abroad in all that relates to a remodelling of English studies, the republication of so important a work as Sievers' grammar could have been made to serve a large purpose somewhat better than Prof. Cook has planned in his version. The retention and extension of references to the grammatical literature, which need not have increased the limits of the book by more than a page or two, and the appropriation of more of the illustrative material, especially of that which pertains to "exceptions," would have greatly increased the value of the book for more advanced purposes. It must be borne in mind that the grammatical knowledge of our Early English idiom is yet in its formative state. However welcome dogmatic statements may be to the beginner, he can not advance far before many of the simple rules give way to more or less open discussions, in which facts and theories must be carefully considered. To eliminate too much of this element of discussion, while contributing to certain immediate ends, must just as surely operate against others of equal and of ultimately greater importance. Thus, by a too rigid process of simplification and exclusion in dealing with the *Miscellen*, the grammar has also necessarily become a less complete epitome of the language.

A simple illustration of what is meant may be given. In *Beiträge IX*, p. 260, Sievers has given varieties of the *gen. pl.* of the weak adjective declension. Prof. Cook in inserting them (§304, note 1) has omitted the *mixed forms*, *ðære háligrana*, *ðære háligran*. In further confirmation of such *mixed forms* I would here call attention to an unrecorded type in which the elements are arranged in the reverse order. *Bath.* (Fox) p. 10, l. 6, "þæt is þæt þú eart án þára rihtwísenra and þára rihtwillendra;" (cf. l. 21, pára unrihtwísra).—A phrase like "oder anlehnung an *stéor*" (*Beiträge IX*, p. 211, §100) has an indirect value bearing upon method, which more than warrants a conjectural

explanation; þára (cf. *underðiedan* : *underðedan*, [subs. *ðed*]). Less simple and more important instances of undue contraction will be readily discovered by any one making the comparison.

These restrictions are not intended to withdraw the attention from the practical service, already emphasized, which Prof. Cook has here rendered the department of English studies. However far this version of the grammar may be considered to fall short of what a similar revision by the author would have made it, we have yet to thank Prof. Cook for a considerable amount of editorial work, conscientiously performed, by which the usefulness of the book is greatly increased beyond a mere translation which another might have forced upon us.

Deserving of notice, moreover, is the care with which Prof. Cook has corrected many erroneous cross-references; his amplification of the Index; and his excellent modification of the system of accentuation.

In conclusion we need hardly add that the work is worthy of general acceptance. Our college classes are its proper sphere, where, if rightly employed, it will surely exert a strong influence in favor of sound scholarship in English.

JAMES W. BRIGHT.

Evangeliorum Versio Antehieronymiana ex codice Usseriano (Dublinensi),
adjecta collatione codicis Usseriani alterius. Accedit versio vulgata sec.
cod. Amiatinum cum varietate cod. Kenanensis (Book of Kells) et cod.
Durmachensis (Book of Durrow). Edidit et Praefatus est T. K. ABBOTT,
S. T. B. Dublin, 1884.

The work of collating the old Latin MSS of the Gospels and the early Vulgate texts, to which we drew attention some time since in a review of Wordsworth's edition of the S. Germain MS of Matthew, is progressing rapidly. The two volumes before us present us with the complete text of an important old-Latin or non-Vulgate copy of the Gospels (formerly in the possession of Abp. Usher) preserved in Trinity College, Dublin, together with a re-issue of the text of the Codex Amiatinus, which has been selected by Dr. Wordsworth as the standard of reference for the future edition of the Vulgate, and three complete collations of the texts contained in the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow, and another MS in Trinity College Library to which the title is given of Usserianus secundus. The whole of this work proceeds from a hand well known to all textual critics; to Dr. Abbott we are indebted for the best reproduction ever made of the text of the Greek Uncial Z of the New Testament, and for his researches with Professor Ferrar into the text of the lost uncial which lies at the back of four important cursive copies of the Gospels. Dublin University maintains a record in Biblical scholarship that is parallel to the calligraphy of the early Irish monks; and it is matter of gratitude on the part of all New Testament scholars that the surviving treasures of those early lights of Western Europe, the Irish monasteries, are being so ably handled.

The texts are edited in the following order. The preface of the editor begins with a description of the principal text, to which he has attached the name of Usher; (we cannot but regret that in christening his copies Dr. Abbott has made the mistake of giving the same name to two of his MSS and